



WINGSPREAD

Civilian guards join security forces

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Randolph joins the other San Antonio military installations today when civilian contract guards begin duty to help with the security of the base.

Akal Security, Inc. of Espanola, N.M., was awarded a contract to conduct security operations at Randolph for the remainder of this fiscal year.

“The contractors will augment manning for security forces,” said Master Sgt. Joe Del Frate, 12th SFS quality assurance evaluator. “This will afford the security forces personnel the ability to meet deployment obligations while the unit continues to provide outstanding customer service to our community. We are confident the situation will work out to our advantage.”

The new civilian security guards are state certified and have also received the same high quality training every Randolph security forces member receives, Sergeant Del Frate said. The contractors will help security forces with installation entry control, commercial search operations and the visitor reception center.

The first 21 contractors recently completed their Air Force-specific training and another group starts training next week.

“The contractors are trained on security measures including use of force, antiterrorism, intermediate use of force weapons and explosives safety with continuing upgrade training throughout the year,” said Staff Sgt. Carlos Perez, 12th SFS unit trainer.

Since they are civilians, the contract security guards will not be required to render salutes, said Capt. Vanessa Hayes, 12th SFS operations flight commander.

“Being professionals, they will provide the same customer service the military members provide on a day to day basis,” she added.



Gail Johnson, a seamstress at Jean’s Alterations in Universal City, finishes sewing patches on the 12th Security Forces Squadron civilian contract guard uniforms Thursday. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)

Tree lighting takes place today in Washington Circle



Children look at the ornaments on the Christmas tree during the tree lighting ceremony last year. (Photo by Steve White)

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Members of the Randolph community and their families are invited to attend the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony today at 5 p.m.

The event, hosted by the 12th Flying Training Wing, takes place in Washington Circle in front of Building 100, the “Taj.”

The event returns to Washington Circle after being held in front of the child development center last year due to the Harmon Drive construction project. Washington Circle is closed to traffic today for tree-lighting ceremony setup.

“The Randolph Company Grade Officers’ Council is working hard to plan a wonderful and festive event for the Randolph community and guests at our annual tradition and celebration,” said 2nd Lt. Kelleah Pitts, ceremony chairperson.

The Randolph Elementary School choir will perform at 5 p.m.

The tree-lighting portion of the ceremony will start at 5:30 p.m., and Col. Richard Clark, 12th Flying Training Wing vice commander, along with a member of the school choir will throw the switch at 5:45 p.m. to light the tree.

After the tree is lit, Santa Claus will arrive while those gathered sing carols. After Santa's entrance, children are invited to take a picture with him and enjoy refreshments in the Taj Mahal rotunda. Also in the Taj, people can view the “Celebrating Children’s Art” display.

“We are excited about this year's celebration and encourage the Randolph community to come out and support our long-standing tradition,” Lieutenant Pitts said. “Everyone is welcome to join in the fun, music and celebration to help kick off the holiday season.”

12th Flying Training Wing Training Status									
Pilot Instructor Training <small>As of Monday</small>			Navigator, EWO Students				Wing Flying Hour Program		
			562nd FTS		563rd FTS		Aircraft	Required	Flown Annual
Squadron	Seniors	Overall	CSO/NFO		CSO	Graduate EWO			
99th FTS	-1.0	-0.0	USAF	229	OPS	International	T-1A	1755.0	1723.4 10,725
558th FTS	-3.0	-2.8	Navy	38	Advanced EW	EW Course	T-6A	2849.6	2780.1 17,196
559th FTS	-4.0	-2.9	International	0	Integration	Intro to EW	T-37B	781.0	832.0 5,796
560th FTS	-3.0	0.1	Total in Training	267			T-38C	1549.9	1591.1 9,937
<small>Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.</small>			<small>Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of combat systems officer students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.</small>				<small>The required and flown numbers reflect hours flown between Oct. 1, 2005 to date. The annual numbers are total hours for fiscal year 2006.</small>		
							T-43	665.0	660.7 3,982

AIR AND SPACE
EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE

As of Monday, 72 Team
Randolph members are
deployed in support of
military operations
around the globe

“**PROTECT
YOUR
WINGMAN**”

DUI...

It's a crime
not a mistake

Team Randolph's
last DUI was
August 2, 2005

Commander's Action Line

Call 652-5149 or e-mail
randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil



While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better.

In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

Col. John Hesterman
12th Flying Training Wing commander

Agency Contact Numbers

12th FTW IG	652-2727
12th FTW Legal Office	652-6781
Base Exchange	674-8917
Civil Engineers	652-2401
Civilian Pay	652-6480
Commissary	652-5102
EEO Complaints	652-3749
Equal Opportunity	652-4376
FW&A Hotline	652-3665
Housing Maintenance	652-1856
Military Pay	652-1851
Randolph Clinic	652-2933
Safety Office	652-2224
Security Forces	652-5509
Services	652-5971
Sexual Assault	
Response Coordinator	652-8787
Straight Talk	652-7469
Transportation	652-4314



**Dedicated
June 20, 1930,
Randolph celebrates its
75th Anniversary in 2005**
Graphic by Michelle DeLeon

WINGSPREAD

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Articles may also be sent by e-mail to wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

By Lt. Col. Stephen Browning
12th Communications Squadron
commander

Have you ever stopped to analyze who the influential leaders are in life? They come in all shapes, sizes and abilities, but they share one common trait: They made a positive difference on you.

Leaders surround us at all levels. The rank, grade, age or position doesn't tell the whole story. The most influential don't have to be the most visible. Most often it's the silent warriors who are making the "hero saves" that deserve the most credit. Unfortunately, they never make the highlight reel for the rest of us to see.

True leaders take the time to step out and take a risk. Whether it was Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell and his relentless pursuit of airpower or the Airman who volunteers to tackle yet another additional duty; the Wright brothers' desire to soar or the civilian who takes a pie in the face for charity; Christa McAuliffe, the astronaut and teacher or the spouse who keeps the home front thriving; Airman 1st Class William Pitsenbarger, Medal of Honor recipient, or the children who love



unconditionally no matter what Air Force life throws their way; each of these are known for making a positive difference to those around them.

To personalize this a bit more, I've attempted to capture that special something from the influential leaders in my life that made a positive difference. They understood the following golden nuggets:

- Surround yourself with those you admire. You don't have to be the smartest person in the room, just the one who picks them as advisors. You'll learn from your peers.
- Priorities matter. Figure out what's at the top of your list, then work that first.
- Attitude is everything. Positive attitudes create awesome energy and synergy.
- Make a positive difference in all you touch.
- Communication is key. Most people

send out 95 percent noise and 5 percent substance. Reduce the volume and take the time to put meat into your choice words.

- Involved. Willing volunteers and active participants make progress.
- Patience and persistence count.

Each element helps improve a leader's effectiveness. Sometimes leading isn't fun or glamorous. It can be hard work. Although we don't get rich doing what we do, we receive great rewards.

While we celebrate the small successes, the sum total of our victories is mind-boggling – a free nation that cares about more than just itself.

Thank you for putting your talents into action to better our community and our United States Air Force. I hope you are a leader who reaches for and attains new heights. In so doing, realize it was the leaders surrounding you who made the positive difference which lifted you to that height.

Retired Brig. Gen. Robbie Risner put it best when he said, "I felt I was nine feet tall ... because I was standing on shoulders of giants."

I, too, stand on the shoulders of giants, living among greatness. Don't be shy. Be a giant, a leader who lifts others up and positively impacts your world.

Air Force family goes beyond rank, background

By Staff Sgt. Shenae Roberts
80th Operations Group

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – "Why did I join the Air Force," you ask?

Well, ever since I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to be in the military. I always had a fascination with serving and protecting my country. I remember 10 years ago when I was sitting in my front yard some jets were flying by, and I became fascinated with them. I knew from that day forth I wanted to be in the Air Force.

When I told my mom, I must admit, she was not happy about it. The first thing she said was that she did not want me to go to war.

"Don't worry. I'm sure that there is more to do in the Air Force," I told her. Besides, the reason why I wanted to join the military was to defend my country. She was hesitant because she did not want to see her little girl get hurt.

Boy was she wrong. Since I've been in the military, I've not been hurt but actually grown in knowledge and opportunities.

I still remember that day: June 26, 1996. I will never forget

it because that was the day I left my house. I had many mixed emotions, and the first was excitement. I was not afraid because two things were happening that day. I felt it was the start of becoming a woman, and I was about to embark on a journey that I will never forget.

I just thought that the Air Force was going to teach me how to defend my country, but I have been taught so much more. I have been taught things that will stay with me for the rest of my life ... things like respect and family.

Respect was something that my mother had always taught me – you know, the normal "yes, sir" and "yes, ma'am." But the Air Force built on that foundation by helping me to realize that I was a person to be respected as well.

This fact was taught in basic military training. For five weeks I was torn down and made to feel as if I was the lowest of the lows; however, during the sixth week, I learned that I was a member of the United States Air Force, and I was to be respected as a member who will selflessly give up my life to defend my country.

See Family on page 3

Congratulations Retirees

Nov. 30

Col. Bruce Doss
Electronic Systems Center

Today

Maj. Mark Tharp
Air Education and
Training Command

Today

Charles Miller
AETC

Monday

Col. Steven Lillemon
AETC

Retirement announcements should be submitted to the Wingspread office by noon Friday two weeks prior to the desired date of publication. E-mail announcements to randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil or fax them to 652-5412. For more information, call the Wingspread office at 652-5760.

Last flight home for an American Soldier

By Tech. Sgt. John Gazaway
176th Civil Engineer Squadron

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFPN) - It was still dark on the runway when we gathered. Most of us were standing on an asphalt runway. I was just one more in a milling mass of uniforms.

It probably would not be appropriate to say how many are stationed here, but we comprise a small city – about the size of Bethel, Alaska.

One thing the military does well is organize milling masses. Before long the first sergeants and officers were calling out. We slowly shook ourselves into organized groups – with long ranks of Soldiers facing long ranks of Airmen across a short stretch of pavement leading to the open bay of the C-130 Hercules.

I won't say this was a solemn group, but there was none of the usual griping heard from a large group of Soldiers being herded into a ceremonial formation.

We waited at Parade Rest for a

*I could only watch the helmet covered heads of the pallbearers bearing their burden.
And I could see that they were young and terribly serious.*

considerable period of time. Then echoing down the ranks, the words repeated by each level of leadership, came the command "Attention."

Shortly after came the command "Present Arms" as the official party came past.

From my place – many ranks back in my squadron formation – I could only see the heads of the official escort between the bent and unwavering arms of the men and women before me.

Were I a good Soldier I would have, as is proper, only looked at the neck of the woman before me. Well, the truth is that I am a willing but somewhat unremarkable Airman and so I slyly peaked. This was an event I wished to witness and I meant no

disrespect in doing so.

Twelve men, all Army, accompanied the coffin. I couldn't see through the ranks of heads and arms. I could only watch the helmet covered heads of the pallbearers bearing their burden.

And I could see that they were young and terribly serious.

Words were said, the coffin was carefully loaded aboard the airplane and the ramp closed.

We were dismissed.

To this day, I do not know who died. I suspect he or she was in the Army. They tend to do most of the dying in this region. Now, clearly this young person was known to the command and to family and friends. But for those of us drawn up in the early morning dark, this was our

own unknown soldier.

As American citizens we expect to have access to all the facts all the time. But as American military members the rules, and our own expectations, are somewhat different. There are situations where a multitude of detailed facts only obscure the central issue.

I'm comfortable with not knowing the details because the ultimate truth is clear. A young American died serving his or her country in a foreign land far from home.

Another truth was that I was proud to be there in the desert darkness with my fellow Soldiers and Airmen, paying our last respects to a fallen comrade-in-arms.

Sometime later my squad mate and I were driving across the base and we saw the C-130 slowly, like a pregnant guppy, climb into the early morning sky. Behind it the bright yellow ball of the desert sun was just crawling above the horizon.

I could only hope this Soldier had a smooth flight home.

Family

Continued from Page 2

I remember when I went home, my family told me I was different. For the first time in my life I felt proud because I had accomplished something huge. I became a part of an elite group ... the "Air Force Family."

You may ask "What is the Air Force Family?" Well

it goes beyond rank. It's not just a commander and his troops in a squadron. It's a group of people from different backgrounds who are taught how to function as one. It's instilled in every Airman that we must function as a team.

If one man or woman falls behind, then we must stop what we are doing, help that individual, and press on, whether it is in an AOR, in our office or off-duty. I am fortunate to say I have benefited from this concept.

There have been times in my Air Force career when I did not want to press on. I wanted to be left

alone. At those times in my career, I knew individuals who helped me get back on track. There have also been times when I gave some people that extra push they needed. It made me feel proud when they accomplished their tasks.

The Air Force is more than an organization. It is a family that teaches each member how to respect and care for each other in our "Air Force Family." So the next time someone asks you what the Air Force is, you can tell them that it is a family that helps you grow and become the best American citizen you can be.

News

Investigation training gets hands-on

By Kendahl Johnson
311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs

BROOKS CITY-BASE, Texas (AFPN) – Figuring out what causes an airplane to crash is no easy task.

But many flight surgeons, aerospace physiologists and some psychologists will be part of an aircraft mishap investigation at some point in their careers.

To better prepare students for the day they are part of an investigation, a colonel here helped overhaul the Aircraft Mishap Investigation and Prevention Course. Now, instead of a primarily lecture-based format, students are learning to solve crashes with a hands-on, problem-based learning approach.

"I'm a big fan of experiential education and problem-based learning versus primarily using a passive transfer of information through lectures," Col. Steve Kinne said.

The colonel is the former general preventive medicine residency director at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. To change the course, he evaluated critiques from former students.

Consistently, students said the course was "death by PowerPoint" and "not practical." Students said they didn't leave feeling comfortable of their ability to be part of a safety investigation board.

The boards have a big responsibility. Board convenes after an aircraft mishap to determine what went wrong and how to prevent the same thing from happening in the future.

So the colonel proposed to change the course so it would provide students a much more active, hands-on approach to learning. He got the green light to make changes.

"With power-based learning, you give teams of students problems to solve, access to proper



Students in the Aircraft Mishap Investigation and Prevention Course sift through debris at a mock aircraft crash site recently at Brooks-City Base, Texas. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez)

information, guidance and mentorship – and you let them learn primarily through self-discovery," the colonel said.

Colonel Kinne took over as course director with a goal. He wanted to reengineer the course to a problem-based learning format, using the study of actual aircraft mishap cases. But instead of presenting them through lectures, course instructors presented background information and then allowed teams of students to analyze actual mishap information.

That way students would come up with their own conclusions of what they thought happened and made recommendations on future prevention. Then they would compare their conclusion to the actual safety board's final report.

"Students would examine all the evidence in depth and try to figure out what happened," Colonel Kinne

added. "Basically, we are teaching them to be investigators. We want them to have an investigative mindset."

Geoff Shidler, an engineer from the school's life sciences equipment laboratory and a veteran of more than 150 mishap investigations, helped.

"It was like a 'show and tell.' We'd show artifacts from previous mishaps and let them tell us what they learned from examining the equipment," Mr. Shidler said.

A very important element of the course is a hands-on, mishap field exercise. So Colonel Kinne set about creating a new "mock" aircraft crash site. Some real aircraft parts from Randolph Air Force Base, discarded equipment from the Brooks Life Support Lab, and two fully equipped mannequins completed the realism at the site.

While the crash site was under construction, Colonel Kinne finalized the curriculum and assembled his instructor cadre. He worked with each instructor on the new format and helped prepare them for two weeks of hands-on instruction.

Lt. Col. Thomas Clarke, a key course instructor, presented a mishap from a special operations mission where he'd been a part of the investigation. Presenting real cases in a hands-on format significantly improved student learning, he said.

"Bringing the extra realism of having the students work through actual case data really enhanced the value of the course," Colonel Clark said.

The positive response from the students was overwhelming.

"The critiques indicate this course actually exceeded all of our expectations," Colonel Kinne said.

(Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service)



Capt. Chris Papa of the 99th Flying Training Squadron does a pre-flight walk-around of a T-1A on the east flightline before a training flight Tuesday. The T-1A Jayhawk fleet recently surpassed the one-million hour mark for safe flying without a significant mishap, injury or fatality. (Photo by Steve White)

T-1A reaches 1 million hour mark

By Megan Orton
Air Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command's T-1A Jayhawk pilot training aircraft flew their millionth safe flying hour Oct. 27.

The aircraft reached the milestone with no fatalities, significant safety issues or major injuries, said Lt. Col. Victor Rick, AETC Initial Training Branch chief.

AETC is unable to credit a specific pilot or aircraft with the accomplishment because 68 T-1A Jayhawks were simultaneously airborne across the United States when the 1 million hour mark was

surpassed, according to statistics provided by Bob Laymon, Raytheon Corporation Air Force programs manager.

The T-1A is used in the advanced phase of specialized undergraduate pilot training for students selected to fly airlift or tanker aircraft. It is also used for navigator training support by Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and international services.

The 12th Flying Training Wing has 29 T-1As in its inventory, 20 here at Randolph and 9 at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. The wing uses the aircraft for pilot instructor and combat systems officer training.

The Air Force purchased Raytheon Corporation's Beech 400A civilian

aircraft and began using it for training in 1993. Powered by twin turbofan engines, the Jayhawk is capable of an operating speed of Mach .78, or 538 mph, and has a ceiling of 41,000 feet.

Since the Beech 400A was flown for a few years prior to the Air Force's purchase of the aircraft, most of the bugs had been worked out, said Maj. John Ryon, AETC Chief of Safety Operations. The T-1A differs from the Beech jet only in its structural enhancements, which provide for increased bird strike resistance and an additional fuselage fuel tank.

The T-1A's "tried and true" airframe and its similarities to a civilian aircraft have contributed to its record, Major Ryon said.

AETC names Sijan Award nominees

By Megan Orton
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command has chosen nominees for the Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award.

These officers and enlisted members were selected for their outstanding demonstration of the highest qualities of leadership in their duties and lives, according to AETC officials.

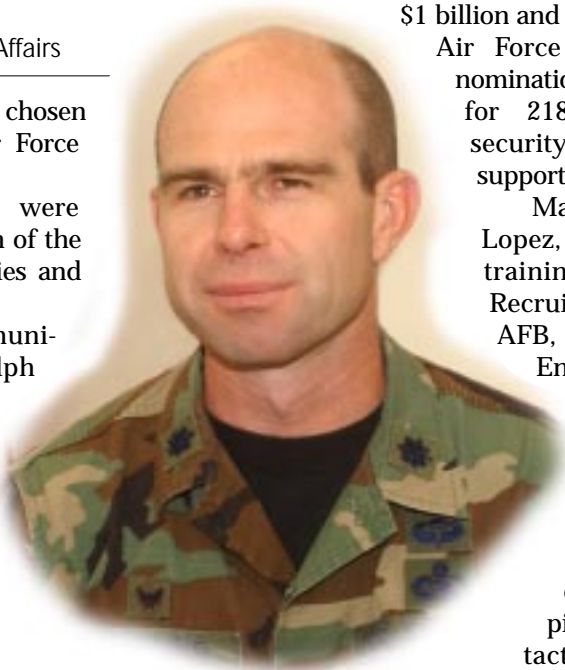
Lt. Col. Stephen Browning, 12th Communications Squadron commander at Randolph is the Senior Officer Category nominee.

Colonel Browning oversaw \$5 million in improvements to the Randolph communications infrastructure. These improvements have significantly increased the squadron's capabilities to support its diverse customer base, said Bud McAuliffe, 12th Communications Squadron deputy base communications officer.

He also organized relocation of the early warning system for Randolph's command post renovation project, saving \$5,000.

"Lieutenant Colonel Browning leads by example, ensuring our Air Force core values are put into practice in all that we do," Mr. McAuliffe said. "He encourages his people to 'think outside the box,' and to develop new and effective solutions to old and new problems, which is one of the main reasons our unit is so successful in accomplishing its mission."

Capt. Patrick R. Stephens, 314th Security Forces Squadron operations officer at Little Rock AFB, Ark., was nominated in the Junior Officer Category. Captain Stephens directed flight line security for 84 aircraft worth



Lt. Col. Stephen Browning

\$1 billion and transient aircraft including Air Force One, according to his nomination. He is also responsible for 218 people who provide security and law enforcement support for Little Rock AFB.

Master Sgt. Ramon Colon-Lopez, director of pararescue training, Det. 1, 342nd Recruiting Squadron, Kirtland AFB, N.M., is AETC's Senior Enlisted nominee for the award. Sergeant Colon-Lopez was selected from 140 premier pararescuemen to become director of training and led a deployment of 20 hand-picked PJs from the special tactics advanced forces, according to his nomination.

As the combat search and rescue lead planner for 22 high-risk classified missions into enemy territory and 15 direct action missions during Operation Enduring Freedom, his team's efforts resulted in two Al Qaeda terrorist deaths and 12 captures.

In the Junior Enlisted Category, Staff Sgt. Andrew W. Gill III, Enlisted Accessions recruiter for the 361st Recruiting Squadron, Vancouver, Wash., was nominated. He encouraged 41 highly qualified applicants to join the Air Force, 170 percent of his target goal. He was also awarded the Recruiter Badge for his achievement, according to his nomination.

The nominees will compete for Air Force-level honors with results likely to be announced by the end of the year.

NEWS BRIEFS

Drug Demand Reduction moves

The 12th Medical Group Drug Demand Reduction Office moves Monday to new office space in Room 232 of Building 863 across from the water tower.

Spurs honor Randolph student

Ryan Watkins, a fourth grade student at Randolph Elementary School, was selected as a recipient of the Tim Duncan Character Award sponsored by the San Antonio Spurs. He and others selected are introduced at a Spurs game as special guests. These awards are a complement to the "Character: Learn It! Live It!" program created by the San Antonio Employer Education Council.

Day Preschool openings

The Randolph Child Development Center has immediate openings for children ages 3-5 in the day preschool program. The program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

For information, call 652-4946.

AFAS Education grants available

Application forms for the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program of the Air Force Aid Society are available on line at afas.org or at the family support center in Building 693.

Spouses and dependent children of active duty, most Reserve and retired members may apply. All categories must be on active duty through Dec. 1, 2006. Dependent children of members deceased while on active duty or retired are also eligible.

Government Travel Card reminder

Government travel cards are to be used for official travel only, said Tech. Sgt. John Robinson, 12th Comptroller Squadron program coordinator.

The cards should not be used for holiday gifts, unofficial travel and non-business related restaurant tabs.

Sergeant Robinson recommends agency program coordinators run delinquency reports just before Christmas and again the first week in January and compare the data to find discrepancies. Questionable card use should be reported to the GTC program coordinator and the unit commander.

RFISD trustee position available

The commander of the 12th Mission Support Group is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees. All applicants must be either a military member, enlisted or officer, or civilian and must either reside or work on Randolph.

Interested persons must submit an application, resume and meet a selection panel.

Application forms are at the 12th MSG commander's office in Building 100 and must be turned in before Dec. 12.

For more information, call Lt. Col. Jim Andersen, 652-1205.

SCUCISD hosts planning meeting

The Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District hosts a public planning meeting Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Dobie Junior High School cafeteria.

The discussion will center on current and future student growth projections and allow input on the district's future direction and needs.

Parents in the Randolph community who have children in the SCUCISD are encouraged to attend.

President: Iraq withdrawal would be 'huge mistake'

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The U.S. commander in chief Tuesday dismissed talk of any major withdrawal of American troops from Iraq before victory over insurgents there is achieved.

"We've heard some people say pull them out right now. That's a huge mistake. It'd be a terrible mistake," President Bush told reporters during a visit to U.S. Border Patrol headquarters in El Paso, Texas.

President Bush said a precipitous withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq would damage military morale, encourage the enemy and send a bad message to the Iraqis.

"And I want our troops to come home, but I don't want them to come home without having achieved victory," President Bush said, noting there's a strategy for victory.

The president said he'd base his decisions about U.S. force levels in Iraq according to recommendations from commanders on the ground.

"If they tell me we need more troops, we'll provide more troops," President Bush said. "If they tell me we've got sufficient level of troops, that will be the level of troops."

President Bush also said that if U.S. commanders tell him that Iraqi forces are capable of taking on more responsibility to fight the insurgency and that some American troops could therefore come home, then he'd do that.

SGLI adds traumatic injury protection benefit

Military members were enrolled in a new program Thursday that expands benefits provided through Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The traumatic SGLI benefit provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for members with traumatic injuries.

Benefits will be retroactive from Oct. 7, 2001, for members who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech or received other traumatic injuries as a direct result of injuries received during operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom, Veterans Affairs officials said. The benefit does not apply to members suffering from disease.

Those enrolled in the SGLI program will notice an increase in their premiums. The traumatic SGLI benefit will be rolled into the basic SGLI program and will cost \$1 a month, said Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance.

TSGLI cannot be declined unless the military member also declines basic SGLI coverage, VA officials said.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Sweet relations



Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell hands out candy to Iraqi women and children in the Civil Military Operations Center in Baghdad recently. The center is part of the Army's civil affairs unit and provides free medical care for Iraqi families a few days a week. Sergeant Mitchell is deployed to the 447th Air Expeditionary Group Office of Public Affairs at Sather Air Base, Baghdad International Airport, from Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs here at Randolph. (Photo by Capt. Jerry Morin)

Combined retiree pay confuses some, tax rate different

The updated Retiree Account Statement has caused confusion among some retired members who receive Concurrent Retirement Disability Payments.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service recently sent out a letter to retirees who are drawing CRDP advising that the two payments, regular retired pay and CRDP, are being combined.

This gives them one payment from DFAS and a second from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

DFAS officials pointed out the confusion comes from retired members

“The bottom line, officials point out, is that disabled retirees are still receiving the same pay amounts from both the VA and DFAS that they have in the past.”

noticing a change in the VA waiver line of their pay statements. Normally that means the VA payment changed. In this case, it just means the accounting system is catching up with the actual amount of retired pay that is offset by the retiree's VA compensation.

Now that CRDP is being incorporated into disabled retirees' RASs, the statements will show a dollar-for-dollar decrease in the waiver amount and a dollar-for-dollar increase to their taxable retired pay.

The bottom line, officials point out,

is that disabled retirees are still receiving the same pay amounts from both the VA and DFAS that they have in the past. They're just getting both retired pay and CRDP in a single check now, and that combined amount is now being shown on the RAS.

Some beneficiaries could see a reduction in net take-home pay, however, because the CRDP in the regular retired pay incurs tax withholding at the same rate as the rest of their retired pay. Before this change, it was withheld at a straight 10 percent rate for all retirees.

Commissary scholarship applications now available

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Students have the chance to receive a college scholarship as the Scholarships for Military Children program heads into its sixth year.

At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

Applications are now available at the Randolph commissary.

"I encourage every student who is eligible to apply for this scholarship," said Willie Taylor, Randolph Commissary store director. "It is such a great opportunity. The program really helps students with their college expenses."

The program is open to unmarried children under

the age of 21, or under age 23 if enrolled in school, of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military.

Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should make sure they and their sponsor are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current identification card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time during the fall term of 2006, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program, according to Defense Commissary Agency officials.

Applications must be turned in at a base commissary by close of business on Feb. 22, either by mail or in

person. Facsimile or e-mail applications will not be accepted. The application should include an essay on why the applicant admires a great military leader, past or present.

Applications, eligibility and more information about the program and scholarships are available at www.militaryscholar.org or at www.commissaries.com.

Since its start in 2000, the Scholarships for Military Children program has awarded \$1,500 scholarships to almost 2,500 military children, according to DeCA officials.

DeCA operates a worldwide chain of commissaries, which provide groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment.

Dec. 7, 1941: Day of infamy, great loss

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

When Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Japanese Combined Fleet, reviewed the plan to attack Pearl Harbor, he cautioned that such an attack would give him only six months of freedom to pursue other objectives in Southeast Asia.

“After that,” he is reported to have said, “I have no expectation of success.”

Viewing the attack on Pearl Harbor 64 years later, there is no mistaking the strategic consequences of the attack that changed the face of international politics. The “sleeping giant,” as Admiral Yamamoto labelled the United States, was awakened to both military action and to its new role as a leader in shaping world events.

Dec. 7, 1941, was one of the major turning points in world history.

Twelve days earlier, Japan secretly launched what was then the largest aircraft carrier fleet the world had seen. They were audacious in planning a surprise attack and in the weapons they used.

Three hundred-fifty planes from six aircraft carriers arrived over the Island of Oahu. They were carrying, among other weapons, a new torpedo they had copied the year before from a British design and a 1,760-pound bomb made from a 15-inch naval artillery shell recently fitted with tail fins. It was one of these new bombs that sank the battleship USS Arizona.

For their part, the Americans were unprepared. The attack began at 7:53 a.m. on a Sunday morning. Many of the Navy and Army personnel were off duty for the weekend, airplanes on the local air bases were parked in neat, peacetime rows, and ammunition for the island’s anti-aircraft guns was securely locked up to prevent pilferage.

None of the American pre-war studies indicated the likelihood of an attack against Hawaii, although there was considerable concern about Japanese aggression into the Southwest Pacific. In fact, just three hours after initiating the attack on Hawaii, the Japanese began coordinated military operations against the Philippines, Malaysia and islands of the Dutch East Indies.

For a few months, it looked as though the Japanese “Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere,” as they dubbed their concept of a Pacific Ocean empire, would be a major player on a new field of world events.

Admiral Chuchi Nagumo, commander of the attack fleet, chose not to launch the planned third wave of the day because he believed the first two



Engulfed in flames, the crippled USS Arizona (right) and USS West Virginia flank the USS Tennessee during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. (Naval Historical Center photo)

waves had accomplished most of his assigned mission. He did not know all three of the U.S. Navy’s aircraft carriers normally based at Pearl Harbor were deployed on the day of the attack and so survived to fight another day.

That unused third wave was planned to destroy the shipyard and naval fuel storage facilities, so they also survived to be instrumental in repairing the damaged ships and sending them out again.

The Japanese counted their losses in the Pearl Harbor operation as 64 airmen and sailors killed, 27 planes and five midget submarines lost.

American losses were 2,403 servicemen and 68 civilians killed, 1,178 wounded, five battleships sunk and eight damaged. Three light cruisers, three destroyers, three smaller vessels and 188 aircraft were also destroyed or heavily damaged.

By the end of the war, only one of the 22

Japanese ships that participated in the Hawaii attack was still operational.

On the other hand, four of the American ships sunk at Pearl Harbor were raised, repaired and returned to duty. Only five ships were lost.

The battles of the Coral Sea and Midway in May and June of 1942 turned the tide of the war in the Pacific, just as Admiral Yamamoto feared. From that time on, the American forces steadily rolled back the forces of the Japanese Empire until, three years later, unconditional surrender was forced on them.

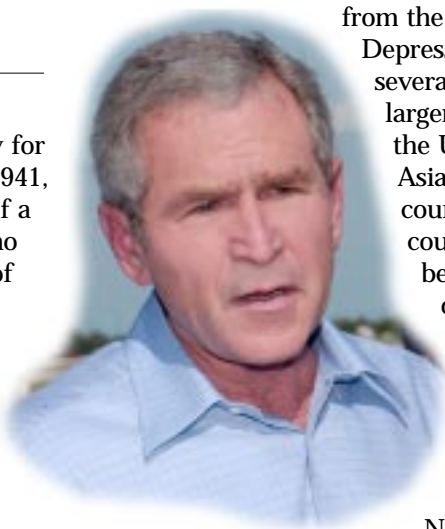
Some historians point out that Japan became the victim of its own victory at Pearl Harbor. For Americans, however, the “day that lives in infamy” continues to serve as a constant reminder that freedom is never free. Its price, as it always has been, is eternal vigilance.

President proclaims Pearl Harbor Day

By George W. Bush
President of the United States

On National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we pray for those lost on December 7, 1941, and we honor the courage of a generation of Americans who devoted themselves to one of the great missions in our country's history. After the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor took more than 2,400 American lives, millions of our citizens answered the call to defend our liberty, and the world witnessed the power of freedom to overcome tyranny.

Liberty's ultimate triumph was far from clear in the early days of World War II. When our country was attacked at Pearl Harbor, America was emerging



from the Great Depression, and several nations had larger armies than the United States. In Asia and Europe, country after country had fallen before the armies of militaristic tyrants. However, the brave and determined men and women of our Nation maintained their faith in the power of freedom and democracy. They fought and won a world war against two of the most ruthless regimes the world has ever known. In the years since those

victories, the power of freedom and democracy has transformed America's enemies in World War II into close friends.

Today, our goal is to continue to spread freedom and democracy and to secure a more peaceful world for our children and grandchildren. We are grateful to the men and women who are defending our flag and our freedom in the first war of the 21st century. These patriots are protecting our country and our way of life by upholding the tradition of honor, bravery, and integrity demonstrated by those who fought for our Nation in World War II. The service and sacrifice of our World War II veterans continue to inspire people across our country, and we remain deeply grateful for all that these heroes have done for the cause of freedom.

The Congress, by Public Law 103-

308, as amended, has designated December 7 of each year as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

Now, therefore, I George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 7, 2005, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I encourage all Americans to observe this solemn occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I urge all Federal agencies, interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff this December 7 in honor of those who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

Deployed Airman receives call from president



Airman 1st Class Sarah Sullivan talks with President George Bush Thanksgiving afternoon. (Photo by Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell)



President George W. Bush calls troops from his ranch in Crawford, Texas, Thanksgiving Day. (Photo by Eric Draper)

By Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell
447th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AFPN) – While most people were waiting to make an important call on Thanksgiving, an Airman here was awaiting a call from an important person.

Airman 1st Class Sarah Sullivan, an airfield management operations supervisor, received that call Nov. 24 at 5:30 p.m. when the White House switchboard put the commander in chief through to her.

She had learned about a week earlier President George W. Bush would call on Thanksgiving to thank her for her service in Iraq.

“I was in total and complete shock,” Airman Sullivan said. “I never really thought I would be selected. I know there are many hardworking troops out there and I figured the odds were (better) for someone else.”

It is that selfless attitude that got her nominated in the first place, according to her commander.

“I can’t speak for Airman Sullivan,” said Lt. Col. Joe Katuzienski, 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron commander, “but I think she was chosen because she is a humble, diligent, hard-working, selfless Airman who works quietly behind the scenes. She gives others credit for her work, treats others with respect, and her personality lifts up people around her.”

“It is hard to wrap my brain around,” Airman Sullivan said of the experience. “I just feel so proud and humble at the same time.”

The call lasted only about two minutes, but Airman Sullivan said it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity she would savor forever.

“I will never forget him saying ‘Sarah, this is the president of the United States calling,’” she said. “He was laughing and sounded excited to be doing this. He told me he was calling to wish me and everyone here a happy Thanksgiving, and asked me how I was doing. He told me how very proud of me and our troops he is, and I told him we were proud to be here.”

She even found they have something in common besides sharing a good laugh.

“He asked me where I was from and I mentioned I lived in Maine for four or five years, so I thought we had something in common. He laughed and said, ‘Yeah, my parents have a house up there,’ and I replied ‘Yes, sir, I know’ and we both laughed. He added, ‘It gets a little cold up there in the winter’ and laughed some more.

“I think it is so impressive that the president would take the time out of his day to do this,” Airman Sullivan said. “It makes a big impact on us as deployed members.”

The president even asked about her husband and how much longer she had left in Iraq.

“He asked where my husband was for the holiday, and I told him he was in North Carolina,” Airman Sullivan said. “Then he asked how long I’ve been here. I told him nearly three months and he asked how long my tour was. After I told him, he said I’d be home in no time.”

This year’s Thanksgiving will be one to remember for Airman Sullivan. Above everything, she said she’s grateful and extremely proud to have represented all Airmen assigned here at Sather Air Base and Baghdad.

(Editor’s Note: Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell is deployed from Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs here at Randolph.)

Community

Carbohydrates: Friend or foe?

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Even though carbohydrates are one of the main parts of a diet, they are usually classified as both good and bad.

Carbohydrates are an essential nutrient that provides energy to the body, brain and nervous system. The liver breaks down the carbs into glucose, or blood sugar, which is used for energy by the body.

Its dietary sources include sugars, grains, rice, potatoes and more.

“Carbohydrates have received such a bad reputation because Americans have been eating too many overly processed and refined carbs, such as white bread, cold breakfast cereals, pizza and soft drinks,” said Claire Behrens, fitness programs manager. “Refined carbs tend to be high in calories and lower in nutritional value.”

Carbohydrates are classified as simple or complex. Classifying them depends on how quickly the sugar is digested and absorbed. Simple carbohydrates have single or double sugars, while complex carbohydrates have three or more, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, MedlinePlus Web site.

According to the National Library of Medicine’s “MedlinePlus” Web site, simple carbohydrates that contain vitamins and minerals occur naturally in fruits, vegetables, milk and milk products. Simple carbohydrates are also found in processed and refined sugars such as candy, table sugar and syrups.

Examples of single sugars from foods include fructose in fruits and galactose in milk products. Double sugars include lactose which is found in dairy, maltose which is found in certain vegetables and in beer, and sucrose which is found in table sugar.

“Complex carbohydrates, often referred to as starchy foods, include whole grain breads and cereals, and



starchy vegetables,” Ms. Behrens said. “Complex carbohydrates provide calories, vitamins, minerals and fiber.”

To increase complex carbohydrates and healthy nutrients, people should eat more fruits and vegetables; eat more whole grains, rice, breads, and cereals; and eat more legumes such as beans or lentils.

It is healthiest to obtain carbohydrates, vitamins, and other nutrients in as natural a form as possible, such as from fruit, instead of table sugar, according to the Web site. Excessive carbohydrates can cause an increase in total caloric intake, causing obesity. However, deficient carbohydrates can cause a lack of calories or malnutrition. For most people, between 40-60 percent of total calories should come from carbohydrates, preferably from complex carbohydrates such as starches and naturally occurring sugars.

If people eat too many carbs of any kind, where they exceed their daily caloric intake, they will gain weight, Ms. Behrens said. This is also true for proteins and fat.

Carbohydrates provide the body with the most readily available source of fuel, which is glucose. If carbohydrate sources are insufficient, the body will draw from existing protein stored in muscles, tissues and organs, Ms. Behrens added.

“When protein is used for energy rather than carbs, the growth of tissue, and its maintenance and repair can be put in jeopardy,” Ms. Behrens said.

For more information, call 652-4311 or visit medlineplus.gov.

Carb Smarts

Here is a sample of a 2,000-calorie menu with 50-60 percent of total calories coming from carbohydrates:

Breakfast

- 1 cup of raspberries
- 1 1/2 cups of unsweetened cereal, with 1/2 sliced banana
- 1 cup of skim milk
- 1 slice of whole wheat toast
- 1 teaspoon of margarine
- 1 teaspoon of jelly
- coffee or tea

Lunch

- turkey pita pocket sandwich (2 slices of whole wheat pita bread, 3 ounces of lean turkey breast)
- 1/2 cup of shredded lettuce
- 1/2 cup of diced tomatoes
- 1/2 cup of green peppers
- 1 tablespoon of salad dressing
- 1 cup of skim milk
- 2 fresh, medium-sized peaches

Dinner

- 4 ounces of broiled salmon with 3 tablespoons of lemon juice, sprinkled with paprika
- 1 cup of pasta
- 1 dinner roll
- 6 steamed broccoli stalks with black pepper

Salad

- 1 cup lettuce
- 1/4 cup of sliced mushrooms
- 1/2 cup of sliced tomatoes
- 1/2 cup of sliced carrots
- 1 tablespoon of salad dressing
- 1/2 cup frozen unsweetened strawberries, sweetened with 1 teaspoon of sugar
- 1-inch slice of angel food cake
- 1 cup of skim milk

(Source: National Library of Medicine’s “MedlinePlus” Web site)

Student 2 Student

Program lends helping hand to newcomers

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

High school can be a tough time for teens, especially when they are new to a school. Making friends and trying to fit in can be hard and scary at times.

That is why Randolph High School has a program for new students, developed by students, to help ease them into the sometimes difficult transition.

The Student 2 Student Program provides necessary information and help to the student who is relocating, with successful transition being the number one goal.

"Making friends is one of the hardest things for new students," said Deb Pannabecker, S2S sponsor. "Our program welcomes new students and tries to make them feel that they're a part of the Randolph community."

The S2S program currently has 20 student volunteers who help with the program, all from the ninth through twelfth grades, Ms. Pannabecker said. The program started last school year with only two student volunteers and two teacher sponsors.

In 2004, the high school program helped transition 10 new students. This school year, so far, the high school has helped welcome 40 students.

"New students have a lot of concerns and questions when arriving to school, and mainly they want to feel welcome, knowing that someone understands what they are going through," Ms. Pannabecker said. "They want to find their way around, make new friends and learn about what classes they need to take."

For new students, when someone their age understands what they're going through, it can help make the situation easier, Ms. Pannabecker said. Having a peer to talk to is sometimes easier than talking to an adult.

The volunteer answers questions they have, helps



Students at Randolph High School participate in the Student 2 Student program Wednesday. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)

them find their classrooms and shows them the layout of the campus. They also introduce the new student to people to give them the opportunity to make friends.

The volunteers go through training and then help experienced volunteers transition a group of new students, Ms. Pannabecker said.

"Once the volunteer is ready, they can assist a new student on their own. Since we are a small school, there is usually more than one volunteer able to help with each new student," she added.

The S2S volunteers learn a lot from their training

modules, such as academic requirements for students, relationship concerns, and the background and structure of the campus. The training not only comes in handy for the volunteer, but it proves useful when the new student has questions.

Audrey Corte, a junior and a volunteer with the S2S program, said she knew what it was like to be the new student at school.

"I volunteered with the program because I wanted to help new students feel welcome at our school," she said. "I also enjoy helping others."

Ready to roll



A fellow volunteer hands 1st Lt. Nick Haan of Air Education and Training Command miniature Christmas trees to deliver as part of Meals on Wheels Thanksgiving Day operations at Christian Senior Services. Meals on Wheels program members and volunteers from the Air Force Sergeants Association, Randolph Air Force Base, the community and their families helped deliver about 2,400 meals for the holiday. The Meals on Wheels program conducts two such special deliveries per year on Thanksgiving and Mother's Day. More than 60 Randolph volunteers helped direct traffic, load food and deliver meals. (Photo by Bruce Winter)

Glass with class



Stained glass class instructor Anita Schmitt (right) shows Sally Alfaro how to put the finishing touches on a stained glass piece Wednesday at the arts and crafts center. Students learn the basics of copper foil, glass grinding and soldering. The cost is \$35 plus supplies and classes start again in January. For more information, call 652-2788. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)

Sports and Fitness

Ro-Hawks tip off basketball season

Commentary by Jack Burns
Wingspread contributor

The Randolph High School's boys' varsity basketball team started its season Nov. 18.

The team is led by Coach Tim Gendron and assistant coach Jerry Gonzales.

Randolph High School has, for the past decade and a half, excelled in winning basketball mostly because of the outstanding coaching their student athletes have received.

Go to their away games in small Texas towns on a Tuesday or Friday evening and you will find the high school gym full of fans because they hope their team will defeat Randolph. The reason for their enthusiasm is noteworthy in the sense that by beating Randolph you have accomplished a feat that will be talked about for many years to come.

Since the 1992-1993 season, the Randolph Ro-Hawks have reached the final four in the Class 2A State Finals twice, and qualified for the Regional level six times with their last appearance in the 2004 finals.

"Having exceptional athletes is one thing, but improving the skills of good athletes into an outstanding team is what Coach Gendron has been able to accomplish, and his peers in the coaching profession all agree that he is an outstanding coach."

Several other times they came up just short of advancing further in the playoffs either because their opponent had a hot three-point shooting effort or injuries had a large influence in the end result.

Last year the Ro-Hawks were district champions with a record of 24-5, ranked 8th in the state and probably one of the most talented ever. They were ahead until the final minute of the game against Little River Academy until a questionable turnover at mid

court ended their journey in the state playoffs.

It is true that Randolph has had their fair share of exceptional athletes over the years but it was the development of the other members of the team that made it possible to be truly competitive year after year. Having exceptional athletes is one thing, but improving the skills of good athletes into an outstanding team is what Coach Gendron has been able to accomplish, and his peers in the coaching profession all agree that he is an outstanding coach.

He teaches team defense and his utilization of every team member, even in close games, are just two of his major strengths.

Since the 1997-1998 seasons, Coach Gendron has been the head coach, and before that he was the assistant coach at Randolph and Devine.

The next games coming up for the boys' basketball team are:

Today and Saturday at the Marion Tournament
Tuesday at Hondo
Dec. 9-10 at the Poteet Tournament
Dec. 12 at Stockdale